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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 4 May 1992 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Hikmet Çetin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, regarding the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I would be grateful if this letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 4 May 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you to voice the deep concern of the Government and people of Turkey for the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. When the Republic declared its independence, Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize this independence in the conviction that early international recognition would facilitate the peaceful resolution of differences between Bosnia-Herzegovina and its neighbours, as well as the differences between the ethnic groups that maked up the Republic.

It was in this spirit that the Government of Turkey gave its support to the efforts of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Community aimed at finding peaceful solutions to the disputes between the former Yugoslav Republics with full respect to international borders and to the human rights and ethnic identities of all the inhabitants.

The repeated violations of the cease-fire in the course of the last few weeks throughout the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the attendant heavy loss of life and human suffering have caused profound sadness and rising indignation in all segments of the Turkish population including, in particular, the many Turkish citizens of Bosnian descent who constitute one of the many links, historical, cultural and sentimental, that exist between the people of Turkey and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Government of Turkey has made every effort to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the suffering population of this land, but, unfortunately, these efforts have been frustrated by Belgrade.

A particular source of anger and frustration for us in Turkey is the wanton destruction that is being inflicted on the many historical buildings and monuments which are a part of our long-shared history with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Government of Turkey is undertaking urgent action within the framework of the Council of Europe and UNESCO to salvage what is a unique and very special part of the rich cultural heritage of Europe.

The restrictions placed on 2 May on the freedom of movement of Alija Izetbegovic, the President of the Republic, by Serbian forces occupying the airport of Sarajevo constitute the latest outrage committed against the sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Government of Turkey fears that this brazen act will result in a further escalation of violence and render more difficult the efforts of the international community to restore the cease-fire.

I know that you share our great concern on this subject and that you and your representatives are doing everything possible to bring to an end the violence that is taking such a heavy toll in Bosnia-Herzegovina and

endangering the peace and security of the Balkan region. The Government of Turkey wants to assure you of its fullest support in the search for a peaceful resolution of this intolerable situation with full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We urge you in conjunction with the Security Council, to vigorously pursue a course of action which will secure these objectives. For its part, our Government will continue to monitor developments closely, and take appropriate measures to contribute to the joint efforts to restore peace and security in our region.

(Signed) Hikmet ÇETIN
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey